

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 EA-06 SP-02 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AGR-05

ISO-00 /157 W

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R 220454Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5526

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BG

SUBJECT: DONOR REPS MEET IN DACCA

ALSO POUCHED TO CANBERRA, BRUSSELS, OTTAWA, COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI,
BONN, TEHRAN, TOKYO, KUWAIT, THE HAGUE, WELLINGTON, OSLO,
STOCKHOLM, LONDON, ROME, BUCHAREST, BERN, ABU DHABI

REF: USOECD PARIS 25423 (26 OCTOBER 1974)

1. IN FOLLOW-UP TO CONSENSUS DECISION AT BANGLADESH AID GROUP
MEETING IN PARIS (PARA 12G, REFTTEL), RECENTLY-ARRIVED IBRD RES
REP ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED DONOR MEETING JANUARY 20. BDG PLANNING
COMMISSION SECRETARY SYEDUZZAMAN ATTENDED, TOGETHER WITH UNSYG
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE UMBRIGHT, IMF RES REP, AND SENIOR OFFICERS
FROM EMBASSIES/HICOMS OF AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK,
FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, KUWAIT, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN,
UK AND US (CHESLAW/TONER).

2. SYEDUZZAMAN REVIEWED FY 75 AID DISBURSEMENT OUTLOOK, CONCLUDING
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THAT DISBURSEMENTS COULD WELL REACH IBRD TARGET OF \$1.07 BILLION,

IF FOOD AID TARGET ACHIEVED. UMBRIGHT REACHED SIMILAR CONCLUSION AND OFFERED FOLLOWING FIGURES. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS OF OVER \$900 MILLION WERE NOW RPT NOW EXPECTED FROM COMMITMENTS MADE AND THIS FIGURE DID NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS' CONTRIBUTIONS (PERHAPS \$80 MILLION IN DISBURSEMENTS), USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEANS (\$60-75 MILLION RANGE) OR ANY IMF FUNDS ABOVE OIL FACILITY ALREADY EXTENDED. THIS WAS "REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE", UMBRIGHT SAID. HOWEVER, AGAINST FOOD AID GOAL OF 2.3 MILLION METRIC TONS (MMT) PLUS 500,000 MT RESERVE BUILD-UP, BDG TO DATE HAD FIRM COMMITMENTS (AND ACTUAL DELIVERIES) FOR ABOUT 1.6 MMT, EXCLUDING AUSTRALIAN SALE OF 300,000 METRIC TONS BUT INCLUDING LATEST US PL-480 PROPOSED SALE OF 150,000 MT OR RICE, LEAVING GAP OF ABOUT 350,000 MT. THIS GAP WOULD BE FILLED, SYEDUZZAMAN HOPED, BY AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND USA. TO AVOID POSSIBLE CONFUSION, SYEDUZZAMAN AGREED PROVIDE ALL DONORS WITH UPDATED FY 75 FOOD IMPORT FIGURES AND OUTLOOK AT NEXT MEETING OF GROUP.

3. UMBRIGHT STATED THAT UN EMERGENCY FUND DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT UNCOMMITTED RESOURCES FINANCE ANY PART OF BANGLADESH FOOD GAP, BUT NOTED THAT ARAB OIL EXPORTERS WERE PROVING TO BE IMPORTANT NEW SOURCE OF AID, TALLING \$135 MILLION ON GRANTS AND LOANS THIS YEAR, AND COULD HELP FINANCE SOME FURTHER FOOD IMPORTS. (INCIDENTALLY, OUR TOTAL, INCLUDING SOME AID FOR STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED PROJECTS, IS \$180 MILLION.)

4. UMBRIGHT SAID HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH BDG LEADERS HAD ALSO BROUGHT OUT FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. POPULATION CONTROL. BDG OFFICIALS ASSURED UMBRIGHT THEY WILL ACTIVATE POLICY PROMPTLY.

B. PROCUREMENT. BDG HAD PROCURED 54,000 TONS TO DATE AND WAS PROCURING AT 1,000/DAY RATE WITH LIKELY OUTCOME THAT FINAL PROCUREMENT FIGURE WOULD TOTAL 120 TO 140,000 TONS.

C. GRUEL KITCHENS. BDG REMAINED COMMITTED TO FEEDING DESTITUTE IN ORDERLY MANNER.

5. AFTER FURTHER GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FOOD SITUATION, GROUP ASKED, AND SYEDUZZAMAN READILY AGREED, TO MEET ON FEBRUARY 7 WITH BDG FOOD OFFICIALS FOR FULL REVIEW OF FOODGRAIN POSITION, INCLUDING LATEST IMPORT OUTLOOK, PORT CAPACITY, VACUVATOR AND MINIBULKERS SITUATION, AND RATION SYSTEM OFFTAKES AND POPULATION SERVED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH SYEDUZZAMAN APPEAL TO DONORS:

A. TO PROVIDE BDG WITH FIRM SHIPPING SCHEDULES FOR GRAIN ARRIVALS;

B. TO MAKE FURTHER FOODGRAIN PLEDGES AGAINST BDG REQUESTS;

C. PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AUGMENT PORT FACILITIES.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DONORS DID NOT FOCUS AT THIS FIRST MEETING

ON SPECIFIC ISSUE OF ACCELERATING DISBURSEMENTS AGAINST AID
COMMITMENTS, AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED AT AID GROUP MEETING IN
PARIS, GROUP IS OFF TO VERY CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE START.
CHESLAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA00394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750023-0956
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750131/aaaabber.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USOECD PARIS 25423, 75 (26, 75 OCTOBER 197
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DONOR REPS MEET IN DACCA ALSO POUCHED TO CANBERRA, BRUSSELS, OTTAWA, COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI
TAGS: EAID, BG, IBRD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006